

Minutes of the Health & Human Services Committee

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Chair Yerke called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Present: Supervisors Gilbert Yerke, Duane Paulson, Jim Batzko, and Bill Zaborowski. Kathleen Cumming arrived at 1:03 p.m. **Absent:** Janel Brandtjen.

Also Present: Legislative Policy Advisor Sarah Spaeth, Health & Human Services Director Antwayne Robertson, Administration Director Norm Cummings, Juvenile Center Coordinator Mike Sturdevant, Jeff Pease and Dan Magnuson of Lad Lake, Inc., Circuit Court Judge Bill Domina, County Board Supervisor Larry Nelson, Administrative Services Manager Randy Setzer, Clinical Services Manager Joan Sternweis, Senior Human Resources Analyst Renee Gage, Budget Specialist Bill Duckwitz, County Board Chair Paul Decker, Senior Attorney Molly Jasmer, and Senior Financial Analysts Clara Daniels and Steve Trimborn. Recorded Mary Pedersen, County Board Office.

Public Comment

Nelson spoke against contracting non-secure shelter care and questioned if the quality of services at Lad Lake will be as good as the services offered at the County. He said he can personally attest to the County service which he described as excellent. He also felt travel to Lad Lake by family members and social workers will be a hardship. He questioned the County saving money in the short-term just to cost more later if additional services are needed because they did not receive quality care. He suggested the committee tour the Juvenile Center and felt this decision should be delayed until additional information could be obtained, including from the school district.

Cummings arrived at 1:03 p.m.

Approve Minutes of 3-13-14

MOTION: Batzko moved, second by Paulson to approve the minutes of March 13. Motion carried 5-0.

Review Correspondence

Yerke read aloud an email from John E. Roelandts, Sr., a Juvenile Center employee, urging the County Board to not privatize the shelter care section at the Juvenile Center. Roelandts said the fiscal note does not address costs to transport juveniles to and from Lad Lake. Also, the social workers who now just walk across the street to see their clients will be required to drive to Lad Lake adding additional time to an already heavy workload. Roelandts said \$130,000 was a small price to pay for the outstanding services provided at the Juvenile Center. These juveniles are not hardened criminals; the kids in shelter care are the ones who benefit most from the dedicated social workers and Juvenile Center staff.

Chair's Executive Committee Report of 3-17-14

Yerke highlighted the following items from the last Executive Committee meeting.

- Approved various ordinances and appointments.
- Reviewed the audit of the Jail Division and Criminal Justice Collaborating Council Alternatives to Incarceration programs.

Announcements

Yerke noted the Health & Human Services Board's annual public hearing will be held on April 3 at the Expo Center at 7:00 p.m.

Future Agenda Items

Yerke referred to the future agenda items list and encouraged the new committee to schedule on-site meetings such as at the Public Health Division, etc.

State Legislative Update

Spaeth said the Assembly finished their work for this session and the last day of the session for the Senate is April 1. The bill to place non-violent 17-year old offenders back into the juvenile system died because it did not pass the Assembly.

Resolution 168-R-010: Support The Implementation Of A Contracted Solution For The Provision Of Non-Secure Residential Care Services For Juveniles In The 2015 Proposed Budget

Yerke said studying non-secure shelter care as a contracted service was an objective in the 2013 budget book and an RFP was done last fall so this has been known for some time. However, he did have concerns with the timing of this legislation. Robertson said the County has a long standing relationship with Lad Lake for other services over the years. He said traveling is part of a social worker's job and transportation costs are paid per diem and is included in the contract. On average, boys are placed in non-secure shelter care for 5.28 days and 5.06 days for females so they are not there for a long period of time. Robertson said it is important the kids' education with their home school is not disrupted and that is part of this agreement. Robertson said the County has provided this service for a long time. The staff at the Juvenile Center are quality employees and the center repeatedly receives glowing reviews when audited. Through Lean Government, this proposal is part of an ongoing assessment on how the department can streamline services and maintain quality services while reducing costs. N. Cummings referred to the fiscal note and said the County will save \$130,000 each year. This includes all transportation costs to their school, to and from Lad Lake/ juvenile court, etc. N. Cummings indicated next year will be a very tough budget due to anticipated revenue losses. We have to look for savings that will allow us to shift money to keep other programs going.

Zaborowski spoke in support the resolution. To answer K. Cummings' question, Magnuson advised Lad Lake serves about 1,500 young people each year, both court referred and at-risk, and there are four locations throughout the greater Milwaukee/Waukesha area. Referring to Lad Lake in Dousman, K. Cummings asked if the majority of the population was from Milwaukee. Magnuson said about 70% come from Milwaukee County. Pease advised Lad Lake will construct a new building for this particular contract including two wings, one for girls and one for boys. It will be separate from other areas of the facility. Batzko had concerns about our non-secure kids being in the same environment with more serious offenders and he questioned why this is better for the kids. Robertson said the setting will be more of an at-home environment versus what we currently have.

It will provide a nurturing and supportive environment while being fiscally responsible and more efficient. Lad Lake is experienced with dealing with youths and they have a good history. Spaeth advised the savings will go toward other departmental services. Robertson concurred and said the savings would be used for prevention and intervention services. K. Cummings spoke against privatizing this service and noted we have an exceptional juvenile center. She did not think our children should be compared to a privatized cleaning service. She said “we do this on the backs of our children and we do it at the risk of our own peril.” She also expressed concerns we are pushing this through at the end of a board year. She was concerned Waukesha County kids would be placed with Milwaukee County kids who total 70% of the Lad Lake population.

Cummings made a motion to table Ordinance 168-R-010. Spaeth explained protocol and the motion died due to a lack of a second. Paulson did not feel tabling this ordinance was appropriate. He said the current County Board has a job to do and it is important this gets done.

Yerke asked how can Lad Lake do this service for less. N. Cummings said part of it is overhead and Pease said it could also be wages. He noted that juvenile court and boys secure will remain at the Juvenile Center under County care. Boys secure must be staffed 24-hours per day, it is our largest population, and he did not think it would be worthwhile to privatize boys secure, at least not at this point. K. Cummings opined that the goal is to empty the building at some point for some unknown reason. N. Cummings disagreed which he explained further. Yerke asked if there has been any conversation with the judiciary. N. Cummings said he had discussions with Judge Bohren about secure girls who did have some concerns at that time but he agrees this contract is going well. Paulson asked for Domina’s thoughts on this issue. Domina said he was here today to listen. He explained the complexity of the children entering the center and was not taking a position at this time. He wants to learn more about it and how it will impact the quality of what exists today at the County facility. He did feel there is benefit to having a social worker across the street who can take a juvenile to AODA treatment located at the Human Services Center. He did speak highly of Lad Lake and has seen kids come into his court who have improved because of that placement. Yerke felt there were still a lot of questions that need answering.

MOTION: Paulson moved, second by Zaborowski to approve Resolution 168-R-010. Motion defeated 2-3. Yerke, Cummings, and Batzko voted no.

Ordinance 168-O-120: Modify The 2014 Health And Human Services Budget To Create Medical Coder Positions To Implement New State And Federal Healthcare Regulations

Setzer, Sternweis, Robertson, and Gage were present to discuss this ordinance. New Federal and State health care regulations require the implementation of ICD-10 coding changes effective October 1, 2014 and the need for an ongoing corporate compliance function to avoid penalties and prevent fraud abuse and waste. The department is proposing to address this need utilizing a current Programs & Projects Analyst and creating two additional FTE Programs & Project Analyst positions at a total cost of \$124,300 for one year.

Setzer said they looked at contracting out for this service but outside sources are not available. To answer Paulson’s question, Sternweis said if we do not create the two new positions, revenues are in jeopardy if a mistake is made. She advised there is zero tolerance for mistakes. Paulson said this is one example of using savings elsewhere (Resolution 168-R-010) to pay for what he felt are two

much needed positions. Cummings asked what if mistakes are made. Sternweis said staff will continue to learn, police themselves, etc. and there are levels of checks and balances. If you can prove you are paying attention and fix what you find immediately, the County will not be as severely penalized.

MOTION: Zaborowski moved, second by Paulson to approve Ordinance 168-O-120. Motion carried 5-0.

Review Future Agenda Items List

The committee reviewed and revised their future agenda items list.

MOTION: Paulson moved, second by Batzko to adjourn at 2:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen M. Cummings
Secretary